

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-18, 20, 23, 25-28 and 30-32 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 15, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 29 have been canceled.

Claim 1 was rejected as reading on existing well-known features. More specifically, claim 1 was rejected as reading on a subscriber having two separate services. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite "an integrated system adapted to service both fixed-site devices and mobility devices". Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as reading on existing well-known features is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 13, 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartmaier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,474; hereinafter, Hartmaier '474).

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully submitted on the grounds that Hartmaier '474 is not prior art with respect to the subject matter therein relied on to support the rejection. The present application has an effective filing date of December 29, 1998, based on a priority claim to provisional application 60/114,102; Hartmaier '474 has a filing date of September 16, 1999, which is later than the effective filing date of the present application. It is noted that Hartmaier '474 is a continuation-in-part of Hartmaier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,672; hereinafter, Hartmaier '672), which has a filing date of September 27, 1996. However, a review of Hartmaier '672 clearly shows that it does not disclose the subject matter of the present claims, nor the subject matter relied on in the Office Action to reject the present claims. For example, there is no "Table 2" in Hartmaier '672.

Claims 2, 3, 10-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartmaier '474 in view of Harlow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,206,901). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the fact that Hartmaier '474 is not valid prior art with respect to the present application, as discussed above, and because Harlow clearly does not independently meet the recitations of the rejected claims.

Version
AT&T (local, long distance & wireline)

Claims 23-32 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Creamer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,028,917). Of these, claims 23, 25-28 and 30-32 remain pending.

Independent claims 23 and 28 relate to updating a call forward setting via the Internet, by operations including receiving a request to update the call forward setting from a subscriber, where the request is generated using a browser-capable subscriber device connectable to the Internet. The request may be processed to update the call forward setting according to the request by updating a corresponding subscriber profile in a HLR. Claims 25 and 30, dependent on claims 23 and 28, respectively, further recite updating the call forward information on a Class 5 switch.

The Office Action correctly observes that Creamer et al. does not suggest updating a corresponding subscriber profile in a HLR, and updating the call forward information in a Class 5 switch. However, the Office Action asserts that these features are obvious (Office Action, par. 5).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The sole reference cited in support of the rejection, Creamer et. al, does not relate to mobile networks at all. Instead, Creamer et al. is concerned with updating service options of the PSTN via computer. To this end, Creamer et al. describes logging on to a web server maintained by the PSTN and requesting an "extended" service option via the web server. The web server passes the request on to a VP (voice peripheral) device responsible for administering services at a regional node of the PSTN. By contrast, as reflected in the recitations of claims 23 and 28, embodiments of the present invention utilize components of a mobile network such as an HLR to update a call forward setting.

It is noted that the CAFC has held that "[t]he mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification." In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Here, nothing in Creamer et al. suggests an HLR as recited in claims 23 and 28, instead of or in addition to the arrangement in Creamer et al., since Creamer et al. is not concerned with mobile networks. Therefore, the assertion in the Office Action that the invention

as recited in claims 23 and 28 is obvious in view of Creamer et al. appears to be based on conclusions unsupported by any documentary evidence or suggestion in the prior art.

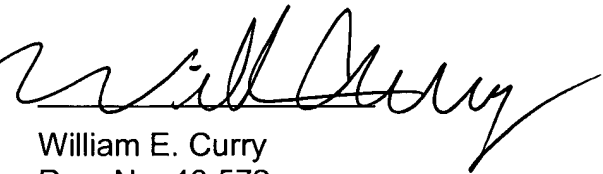
Like independent claims 23 and 28, independent system claim 31 includes recitations directed to updating a subscriber profile in a HLR. Claims 25-27 depend on claim 23, claim 30 depends on claim 28, and claim 32 depends on claim 31. It is noted in particular that claim 27 recites a mobile telephone: this feature is clearly absent from Creamer et al. Accordingly, in light of the preceding discussion, claims 23, 25-28, and 30-32 are allowable over Creamer et al., and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims as unpatentable over Creamer et al. is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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